

Appl. No. 10/524,398
Amdt. Dated July 6, 2009
Reply to Office Action of January 6, 2009

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants have modified claims 12 and 16 to correct the minor typographical errors identified by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the objections to claims 12 and 16. In regard to the Examiner's objections to claims 26 and 27, Applicants note that the grounds for the Examiner's rejection are based upon an asserted failure to describe a plurality of binary deflection control inputs or an analog deflection amplitude control input.

Applicants note that the subject matter of Figures 28 A and 28 B and the related description clearly describe these elements wherein the binary values for the switch state described in the referenced figures provide an adjustment of the operating current at each ejecting element. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objections to claims 26 and 27 as well.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the prior art rejections set forth by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. sections 102 and 103. Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art references of record, cited by the Examiner fail to either teach or suggest Applicants' presently claimed invention as now specified. More specifically, Applicants note that the presently claimed invention is directed to an improved printing apparatus wherein a principal control means provides an initial operating condition for groups of ink ejecting elements. Advantageously, this principal control means provides the ability to alter an initial operating condition for a group of ink ejecting elements in order to account for various manufacturing differences which could possibly result in undesired visible lines being generated in a printed image.

Advantageously, by providing this principal control adjustment, certain manufacturing differences can be taken into consideration and thereby ensure that improved

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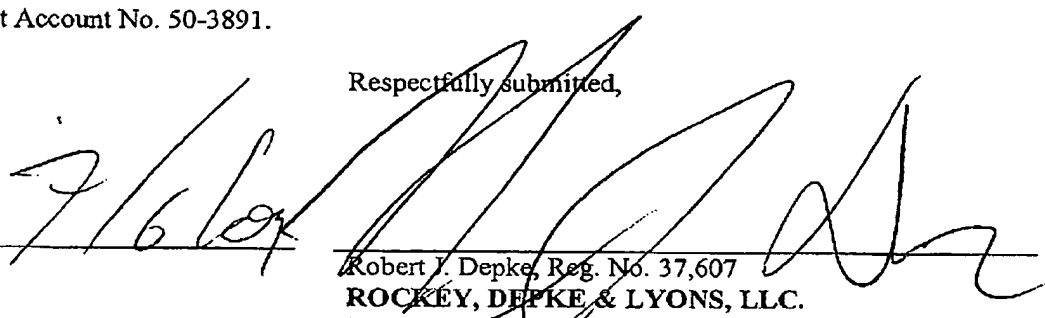
in coverage for the printing system is achieved. Additionally, in accordance with the present invention, an auxiliary control means is also provided which alters the ink ejecting current values that are applied to an individual ink ejecting unit so that they may differ from the values determined by the principal control means.

Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art cited by the Examiner does not teach or suggest this advance in the art. Applicants acknowledge that Eguchi does describe the ability to alter a primary ink ejecting direction for a group of individual ink ejecting elements. However, the additional auxiliary control means is neither described or suggested by this reference and the prior art as a whole does not teach or suggest Applicants instant innovation wherein both a principal control means and an auxiliary control means are provided so that greater flexibility can be achieved in generating image information via the printer of the present invention. At best, the ink ejecting control described in Eguchi would provide the same functionality as the principal control means. Significantly, however, there is no teaching or suggestion regarding the combined use of a principal control means in conjunction with an auxiliary control means to thereby provide greater flexibility in controlling the ink ejecting elements of the printer.

Accordingly, in light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims now stands in condition for allowance. In the event that it is deemed necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees due or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3891.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 7/6/09


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